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PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/606,374
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

PATENT
FINAL

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A multi lumen catheter comprising:

an outer tube having an inner cavity constituting a blood extraction lumen, and a blood extraction port which is open at an end facing the front end side in the axial direction and communicates said blood extraction lumen with the exterior of the catheter;

an inner tube having (a) an inner cavity constituting a blood return lumen and (b) a blood return port for communicating said blood return lumen with the exterior of the catheter; and

a guide wire tube for inserting a guide wire and having (a) an inner cavity constituting a lumen for inserting the guide wire, and (b) a front tip of a tapered shape;

wherein said blood extraction lumen is defined by an inner surface of said outer tube and outer surfaces of said inner tube and said guide wire tube, and

wherein said inner tube and guide wire tube are inserted in said outer tube, and are allowed to slide relative to said outer tube, and the front tip slides with said guide wire tube between a first open position and a second closed position and in said second

closed position the tip is joined to the front end of said outer tube to shut off communication of said blood extraction lumen and said blood return lumen 31 from the exterior of the catheter.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A multi lumen catheter comprising:
an outer tube having a front end and a base end, an inner cavity constituting a blood extraction lumen, and a blood extraction port which is open at an end facing the front end side in the axial direction and communicates said blood extraction lumen with the exterior of the catheter;

an inner tube having an inner cavity constituting a blood return lumen and a blood return port for communicating said blood return lumen with the exterior of the catheter; and

a guide wire tube for inserting a guide wire and having (a) an inner cavity constituting a lumen for inserting the guide wire, and (b) a front tip of a tapered shape;

wherein said blood extraction lumen is defined by an inner surface of said outer tube and outer surfaces of said inner tube and said guide wire tube, and

wherein said inner tube is at least partly secured to said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire, said inner tube and said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire are inserted in said outer tube and are slidable relative to said outer tube between a first open position and a second closed position such that, in said first open position, said outer tube, said inner tube and said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire are in such an order that the front tip, the blood return port and the blood extraction port are successively arranged in order from the front end side, and the blood extraction lumen with the blood extraction port and the blood return lumen with the blood return port communicate with the exterior of the catheter, and, in said second closed position, the front tip of said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire is joined to the front end of said outer tube, and the communication of said blood extraction lumen and said blood return lumen from the exterior of the catheter is shut off.

5. (previously presented) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein the blood extraction lumen in the blood extraction port and the blood return lumen in the blood return port communicate with the exterior of the catheter in said first open position when the dialysis is being conducted, and the

communication of said blood extraction port and said blood return port from the exterior of the catheter is shut off in said second closed position when the dialysis is not being conducted.

6. (previously presented) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein said inner tube and said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire are independent from each other.

7. (withdrawn) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein said inner tube and said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire share a wall over the full length of said inner tube.

8. (withdrawn) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire is inserted in said inner tube.

9. (previously presented) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein said inner tube and said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire are secured to each other at base end portions thereof.

10. (withdrawn) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein said inner tube is secured at its front end to the front tip of said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire.

11. (previously presented) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein said blood return port in said inner tube is open at an end facing the front end side in the axial direction.

12. (withdrawn) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein said blood return port in said inner tube is a side port opening in the side surface of said inner tube.

13. (previously presented) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, further comprising a locking mechanism for locking the arrangement of the outer tube, inner tube and guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire in said first open position.

14. (previously presented) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, further comprising a locking mechanism for locking the jointing of the front tip of said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire and said outer tube in said second closed position.

15. (previously presented) The multi lumen catheter according to claim 4, wherein said guide wire tube for inserting a guide wire having an inner cavity constituting a lumen for inserting the guide wire and a front tip of a tapered shape further comprises a communication shut-off mechanism capable of shutting off communication between the lumen for inserting the guide wire and the exterior of the catheter.

16. (withdrawn) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, wherein said inner tube and said outer tube share a wall.

17. (previously presented) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, wherein said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire is inserted in the blood extraction lumen of said outer tube.

18. (withdrawn) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, wherein said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire is inserted in said inner tube.

19. (withdrawn) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, wherein the inner cavity of said outer tube is further provided

with a lumen in which can be inserted said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire.

20. (withdrawn) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, wherein said blood return port in said inner tube is a side port opening in the side surface of said inner tube.

21. (previously presented) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, wherein said blood return port of said inner tube is open at an end facing the front end side in the axial direction.

22. (previously presented) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, wherein the joint between said front tip and said outer tube is formed on a plane that meets the long axis of said multi lumen catheter at right angles.

23. (withdrawn) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, wherein the joint between said front tip and said outer tube is formed on a plane that meets the long axis of said multi lumen catheter at an obtuse angle.

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24. (previously presented) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, further comprising a locking mechanism for holding said outer tube, said inner tube and said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire in said first open position where communication has not been shut off in said blood extraction port and in said blood return port.

25. (previously presented) A multi lumen catheter according to claim 15, further comprising a locking mechanism for holding said outer tube, said inner tube and said guide wire tube for inserting the guide wire in said second closed position where communication has been shut off in said blood extraction port and in said blood return port.

26-36. (canceled)